



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2004

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**EL PASO BUSINESSMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that 45-year-old Hector Villa, III, an environmental services company manager, pled guilty to defrauding the City of El Paso of more than \$685,000.

Appearing before United States District Judge Frank Montalvo, Villa pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud. By entering a guilty plea, Villa admitted that from April 1999 through October 2001, he schemed with others to fraudulently collect money from the City with respect to a contract for the collection and disposal of household hazardous waste material. Under the terms of the contract, Frontera was to be paid by the City based on the weight of household hazardous waste collected and disposed, and method of disposal. Villa, as a corporate officer of Frontera Environmental, L.L.C., submitted fraudulent invoices on behalf of the company to the City which inflated the amount of hazardous waste collected and disposed of by the company. Frontera overbilled the city by an estimated \$685,410.35.

As a result of the guilty plea, Villa faces up to five years in federal prison, a maximum \$250,000 fine and restitution of \$685,410.35. Sentencing is scheduled for 9:00am on January 4, 2005.

Villa's sister, Denise Y. Villa-Aceves, and the company also face federal charges as a result of this investigation. Villa-Aceves is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and six counts of mail fraud. The company is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of mail fraud. Upon conviction, Villa-Aceves faces up to 30 years in federal prison. The company is subject to \$500,000.00 in fines. Jury selection is scheduled to begin at 1:00pm on November 8, 2004.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Environmental Protection Agency together with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney William Lewis, Jr., is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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